

We Claim:

1. A pole for a hand pallet truck comprising:

a pole bar linked to a support for a steerable wheel at a lower end and connected to a loop-shaped handle at an opposite end,

an operating device within a space defined by the handle, said operating device being attached to a holding extension projecting into the handle in prolongation of the pole bar, and connectable to a lifting apparatus of the hand pallet truck via a first traction and pushing element, and connectable via a second traction and pushing element to a brake of the hand pallet truck,

a first operating lever and a second operating lever respectively disposed on either side of the holding extension, each of said first and second operating levers being pivotally mounted on the holding extension in a plane essentially defined by the handle,

wherein the operating device includes a housing, in which first and second mounting placed are disposed, one for each of said first and second operating levers, each of said first and second operating levers projecting through a slot in the side of a housing with an actuating portion, in that the first and second mounting places are identically constructed and are symmetrically arranged to the axis of the holding extension, wherein said first operating lever is mounted at the first mounting place and one of said second operating lever and a third operating lever is mounted at the second mounting place, wherein and when said second operating lever is mounted at the second mounting place, the second operating lever is connected with the second traction and pushing element for the brake, in that the first and third operating levers are identically shaped and each have an inner portion, in that a coupling mechanism connected to the first traction and pushing element is disposed inside the housing, wherein the coupling mechanism is constantly engaging the inner portion of the first operating lever and engages the inner portion of the third operating lever when said third operating lever is mounted at the second mounting place, and wherein a

locking device for the second operating lever is further provided in said housing, wherein said locking device is actuated from a locking and unlocking lever mounted at a third mounting place and extending to the same side as the one of said second and third operating levers.

2. The pole of claim 1, wherein the first and third operating levers are coupled by the coupling mechanism such that pulling at least one of the first and third operating levers out of a neutral position and away from the pole bar causes a lowering operation and pushing one of said first and third operating levers out of the neutral position towards the pole bar allows a lifting operation of the lifting apparatus.

3. The pole of claim 1, including a toothed interlock portion disposed in the housing and a catch for engaging with the teeth of said interlock portion such that when pulling the second operating lever, the catch ratchets along the teeth of said interlock portion and, when the second operating lever has finished moving, said lever engages one of the tooth spaces, said locking and unlocking lever being coupled to the catch to disengage said catch from the teeth.

4. The pole of claim 3, wherein at least one of the catch and the locking and unlocking lever is biased by a spring.

5. The pole of claim 3, wherein the catch and the locking and unlocking lever are each mounted on the second operating lever.

6. The pole of claim 1, wherein each of the first, second and third operating levers have the same geometric shape.

7. The pole of claim 1, wherein the actuating portion of the second operating lever is different than the actuating portions of the first and third operating levers, wherein said actuating portion of second operating lever has a different feature including at least one of being made from a different material, having a different surface and/or a different color and having a different shape than the first and third operating levers.

8. The pole of claim 1, wherein one of the operating levers remains in the neutral position when the other of said operating levers is being pulled.

9. The pole according to claim 8, wherein shifting the operating levers between a pushing direction and back to the neutral position moves the operating levers synchronously.

10. The pole of claim 1, wherein the coupling mechanism includes a shifting element which is linearly movable inside the housing and has a tooth rack portion with teeth on opposing sides and wherein the first and third operating levers each have a toothed portion for engaging with said teeth of the tooth rack portion.

11. The pole of claim 10, wherein inner end portions of the operating levers cross each other inside the housing and their mounting places are disposed on respective opposite sides of the shifting element.

12. The pole of claim 1, wherein the housing is made up of two shells, the dividing plane of which is disposed in or parallel to the pivotal plane of the operating levers.

13. The pole of claim 12, wherein each of the housing shells has a socket portion which is capable of receiving a tube portion of the holding extension.

14. A pole for a hand pallet truck comprising:

a pole bar linked to a support for a steerable wheel at a lower end and connected to a loop-shaped handle at an opposite end,

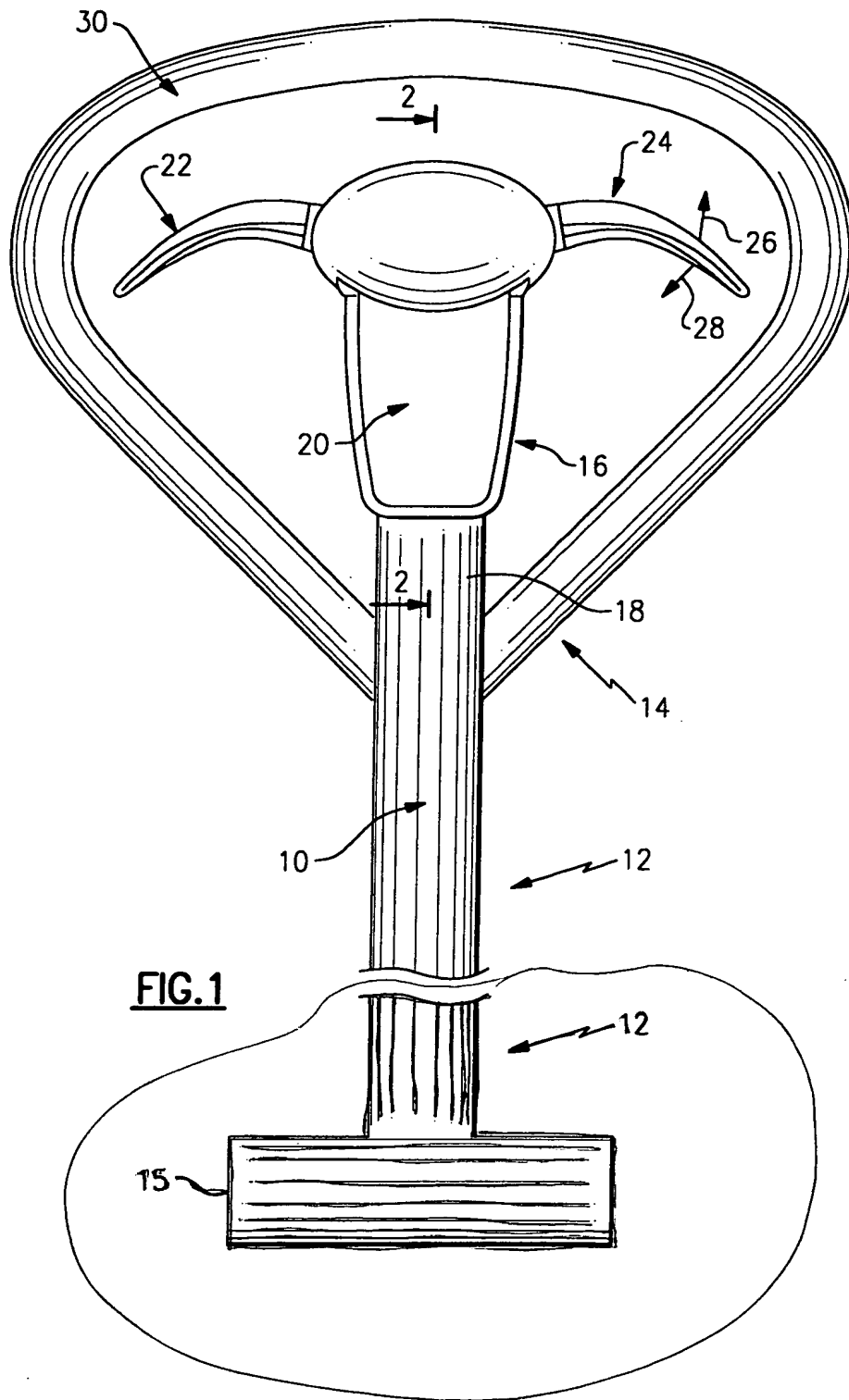
an operating device disposed within the space defined by said loop-shaped handle, the operating device being attached to a holding extension projecting into the handle in prolongation of the pole bar,

first and second operating levers disposed on either side of the holding extension, each of said operating levers being pivotally mounted on the holding extension in a plane essentially defined by the handle, wherein said first operating lever acts on a traction or pushing element connectable to a lifting apparatus of the hand pallet truck and said second operating lever acts on a second traction or pushing element connected to the brake of the hand pallet truck and a locking and/or unlocking lever pivotally mounted inside the operating device which in a first position of the second operating lever locks said second operating lever and in a second position unlocks the second operating lever; and

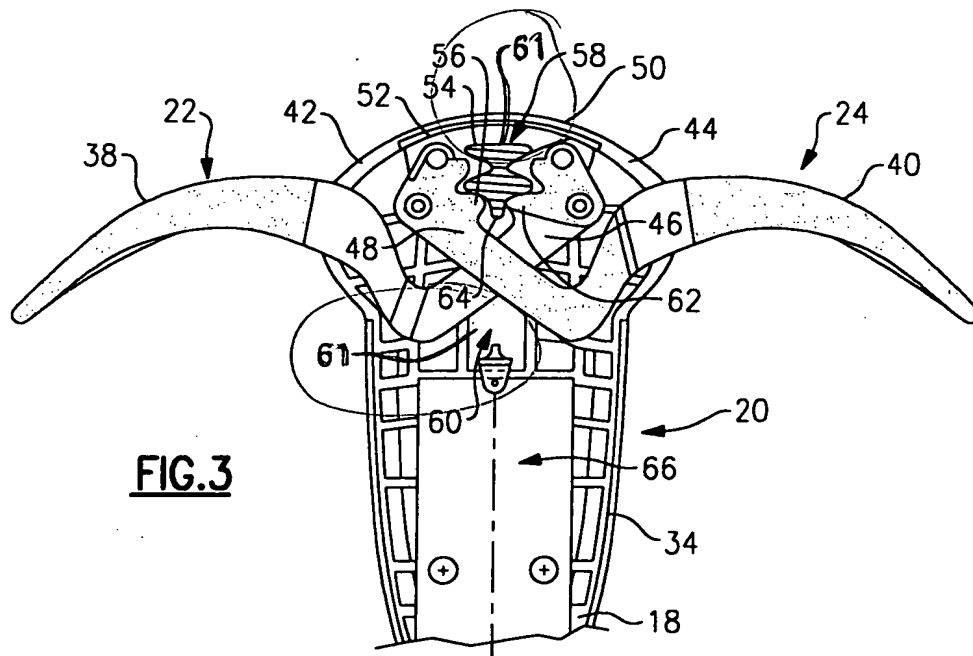
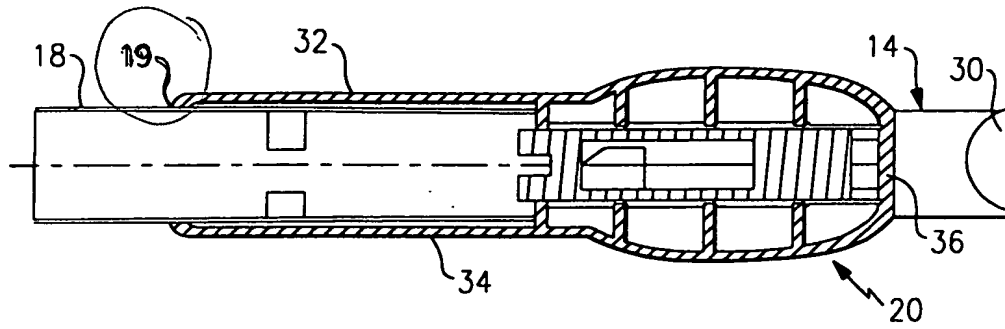
a catch movably mounted on the second operating lever inside the housing for the operating device, said catch cooperating with a toothed interlock portion in the housing to lock the second operating lever in given pivotal positions, in that the locking and unlocking lever is tiltably mounted inside the housing and coupled to the catch and that at least one of the catch and the locking and unlocking lever is biased by a spring.



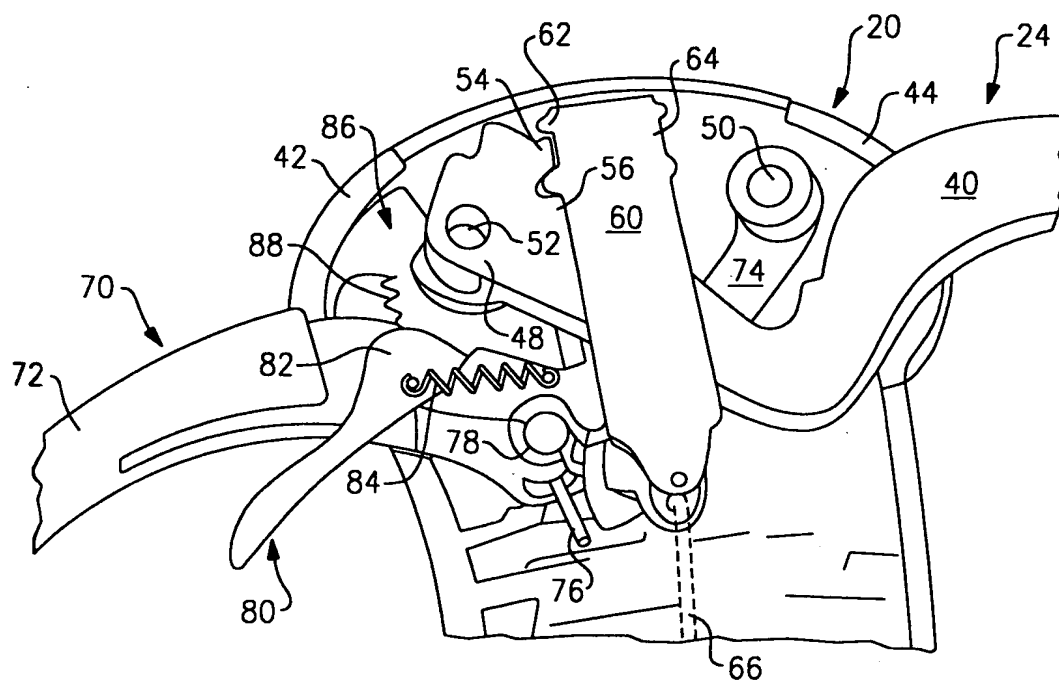
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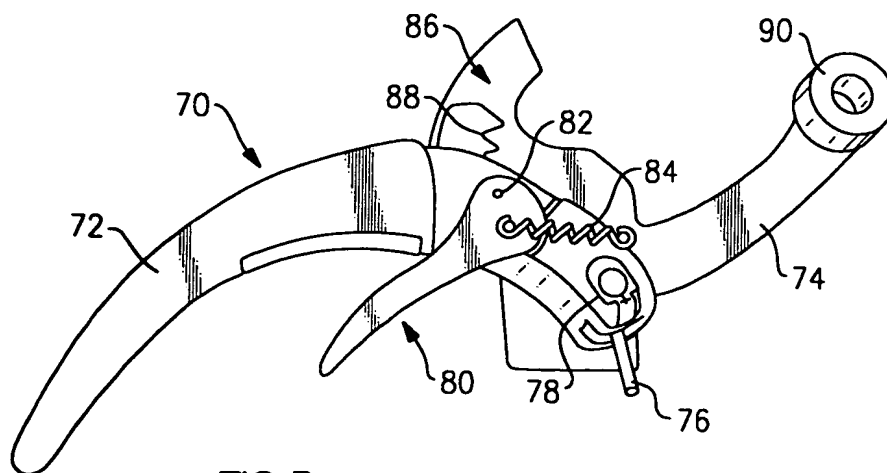


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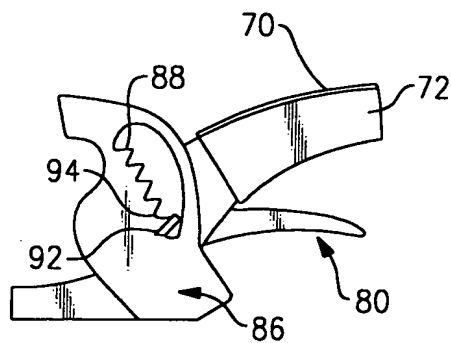


**FIG. 4**

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**FIG. 5**



**FIG. 6**